

TRAIL & *Landscape*

A PUBLICATION CONCERNED WITH
NATURAL HISTORY AND CONSERVATION

LIBRARY

JAN 2 1980

NEW YORK
BOTANICAL GARDEN



THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS'

CLUB

Trail & Landscape

Editor & Production Coordinator

Joyce Reddoch

Associate Editors

Bill Gummer Peter Hall

Business Manager**& Typing Coordinator**

Jim Montgomery

Graphics

Marc Guertin

Production StaffTelephone Coordinator

Dorothy Greene

Typists

Lorraine MacPhee

Colette Petschke

Proofreaders

Martha Camfield

Chris Taylor

Mailing Team

Lisa Meyboom

Coordinator

Jennifer Chaundy

Views expressed in Trail & Landscape are not necessarily those
of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club

The Ottawa Field ~ Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

President

Daniel F. Brunton

Objectives of the Club: To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

Club Publications: THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, devoted to publishing research in natural history; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, a non-technical publication of general interest to local naturalists. THE SHRIKE, a local birding newsletter, is available by separate subscription.

Field Trips, Lectures and other natural history activities are arranged for local members. See "Coming Events" in this issue.

Membership Fees: Individual (yearly) \$13

Family (yearly) \$15

Sustaining (yearly) \$30

Life (one payment) \$300

Subscriptions (libraries or other institutions) \$13 per year (Volume)

Single copies of recent issues \$2.50 each

Membership application, correspondence:

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Box 3264 Postal Station C

Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5

Information:

(613) 722-3050 day or evening;

no calls before 10 a.m. please

Second Class Mail — Registration #2777


TRAIL & Landscape®

Vol 17 No 1


Published by
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Box 3264, Postal Station C
Ottawa K1Y 4J5

Editorial Address:
548 Rivershore Crescent
Gloucester K1J 7Y7

Welcome, New Members	- - - - -	2
Federation of Ontario Naturalists Report	- -	4
Dan Brunton		
Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards	- - -	5
Recent Bird Sightings	- - - - -	6
Bob Gorman		
The Ottawa Banding Group	- - - - -	8
Joanne Dean		
Ottawa Regional Science Fair	- - - - -	11
Ken Taylor		
Environment Canada's Position on Some Local Issues	- - - - -	12
It Works Both Ways!	- - - - -	13
Science Focus - Focus on Wetlands	- - - - -	14
Isabel Bayly		
Tiger Beetles of the Ottawa Valley	- - - - -	15
Henri Goulet		
Winter Wildflowers in Ottawa	- - - - -	24
Ross Anderson		
Wolverines in Gatineau Park?	- - - - -	31
Bill Gummer		
The Excursions and Lectures Committee	- - -	32
Charlie Beddoe		
OFNC Annual Picnic	- - - - -	34
Frank Bell		
Thanksgiving Whale Trip	- - - - -	36
Jo Carson		
Coming Events	- - - - -	39



Members' Soiree



Conversation and Conservation

Last year's Soirée was so popular that it has been decided to run it again in late April or early May. The format of combining a wine and cheese party with a natural history exhibition will be the same, but it is hoped to unify the various displays this year with the common theme of conservation. A synthesis of the better Soirée displays could very well form the basis of the Club's display at the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Conference to be held at Carleton University in early June. (See opposite page.) So start thinking now about how best to mould your natural history collection into an effective display emphasizing this year's theme of conservation.

For those who do not wish to be on their feet for long periods of time, there will be plenty of chairs provided this year for sitting and chatting.

Full details of the Soirée will appear in the next issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

Welcome, New Members

Ottawa Area

Karen Bailey
Audrey Beamish
Marc Bosc
Adrian Carter
Iris Desautels
Dr. & Mrs. Keith Flegg
Harold Joy & family
Georgia Larter
Philip Martin & family
Terry McGuire

Lorraine Moss
Shaila Nijhowne
Carol Shuttleworth
Elaine Sigler
Nancy & Russell Smart
Patricia Smith
Karen Strong
Madge Worthen
Mrs. D. Wright

Other Areas

Mark Pulsifer
Wolfville, Nova Scotia

D. James Blick
Ann Arbor, Michigan

November, 1982

The Membership Committee

Springtime in the Valley



Your opportunity to explore the Ottawa Valley
and the Gatineau Country

Photo Salon*

Annual Meeting and Conference

Conference Program

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------|
| • ravens in the Gatineau Hills | • orchids in the woodlands | • night wings — bats |
| • Yellow Rails in Richmond Fen | • threatened wetlands | • famous museums |
| | • fossil and fault finding | |
-

*Contact Roy Hamaguchi c/o The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club,
Box 3264, Postal Station C, Ottawa K1Y 4J5.



The Federation of Ontario Naturalists
at Carleton University,
June 3 - 5, 1983



See the next issue of *Trail & Landscape* for
registration details, or telephone the Club number,
722-3050 (after 10 a.m.).

Your Host

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Ontario's Oldest Field Naturalists Club

Federation of Ontario Naturalists Report

Dan Brunton

In recent years The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club's contact and involvement with the Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON) has declined, although we have remained a Federated Club of the FON, have supported them financially, and have put a Club Representative on the Board of Directors. During this time, things with the FON were somewhat in turmoil, their financial situation was awful, and, frankly, we didn't have a lot of faith in the future of that organization. Well, things change. In the last two years the Federation has, essentially, "cleaned up its act" financially and has rededicated itself to the preservation of natural values in Ontario. It has become an increasingly credible and effective voice for the 20,000 Ontario naturalists within the Federation and the Federated Clubs.

I was recently appointed by the OFNC Council to be the Club Representative on the FON Board of Directors. At the Annual Meeting last spring, Club Past President Roger Taylor was elected a Director-at-Large, as was Conservation Committee member Stew Hamill. This unprecedented representation from eastern Ontario (and The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) gives us a stronger voice in this rejuvenated FON.

To keep members up to date on recent goings-on with the Federation, we're going to try to have a regular FON Report in *Trail & Landscape*. We'll be circulating the reporting duties so that you'll get different perspectives on the Federation's activities.

Certainly the most important FON activity *vis-à-vis* Club interests right now has got to be the recent decision by the Council to offer to host the 1983 FON Annual Meeting and Conference here in Ottawa. This decision came with such relatively short notice because the previously-arranged hosts had to withdraw. You'll get an idea of the event from the announcement on the previous page, but suffice it to say that this is a wonderful opportunity for us to introduce Ontario naturalists to the natural glories of the Ottawa Valley and for us to meet many of these people ourselves. We've established a Coordinating Committee, chaired by Roger Taylor, and have already begun preparations. If you want to get involved, feel free to call Roger (731-9270), or, if you have some program or outing suggestions, let me know (829-7307).

The Federation is looking quite healthy these days. At the September Directors' meeting in Toronto we were told of a projected \$18,000 deficit ... quite a reasonable figure, really,

considering the present economic climate of the province and when compared to total expenditures of close to one million dollars. The various Designated Funds (which provide a measure of long-term financial security for the Federation and which manage bequests and other donations) have also been sorted out and were approved at the meeting. One fund of particular interest to us is the Conservation Action Fund. It is controlled by the FON Executive Committee (a group not unlike our Council) and has a minimum balance of \$5000 at all times. The Executive Committee can authorize the expenditure of these funds at any time for a pressing conservation need, so we won't be caught without the financial resources to get started if an environmental issue requires quick action.

The Federation is about to begin a membership drive and pointed out that few members of Federated Clubs (such as The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club) are also members of the FON. (Does that mean that if you're a Club member you don't need anything else?!) We have offered the FON Membership Committee a copy of the *Trail & Landscape* mailing labels (for this one purpose), and it will likely be sending out information to Club members about now.

These are the highlights for now; Roger Taylor will tell you more about the FON (and the Directors' meeting in late November) in the next issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards

Nominations are requested from Club members in good standing for the following awards:

- * Honorary Member
- * Member of the Year Award
- * OFNC Service Award
- * Anne Hanes Natural History Award
- * Conservation Award

Award descriptions are contained in *Trail & Landscape* 15(5): 228-229 (1981), as well as 16(2): 75 (1982) (Anne Hanes Natural History Award).

Recipients of last year's awards are documented in *Trail & Landscape* 16(4): 185-189 (1982).

With the exception of Honorary Member, all nominations must be members in good standing of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club. Please supply a comprehensive rationale for each nomination no later than January 15, 1983, to

The Chairman, Awards Committee
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club
Box 3264, Postal Station "C",
Ottawa, Ontario
K1Y 4J5.

Recent Bird Sightings

Bob Gorman



The months of September and October of 1982 can be characterized as warm, sunny and dry. Such conditions are usually ideal for migration, and, consequently, few birds are seen. Birding was slow throughout the period, with few birds of interest seen; however, there were a few notable exceptions.

The period began with one of the main birding events of the year, the Fall Bird Count on September 5th. The day was hot and sunny, and birds were difficult to find. Nonetheless, 182 species were turned up, including an immature Bald Eagle at Shirleys Bay, and a Wilson's Phalarope and two Baird's Sandpipers at Munster Hamlet sewage lagoons. Very early records included a Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker and a Boreal Chickadee in the St.-Pierre-de-Wakefield area. Three Peregrine Falcons were recorded on the count, an adult at Thurso as well as the two summer residents at Tunney's Pasture. The recording of adult or sub-adult Peregrines in the Ottawa area is heartening; we hope that these birds are indicators of the revival of the Peregrine Falcon in eastern North America. The best bird of the count was a Connecticut Warbler observed in the Richmond Fen. This is a very rare warbler in the Ottawa area; it was the first of two sightings for the period.

The following day, September 6th, brought one of the few storms of the period and turned out to be the best shorebird day of the fall. At Ottawa Beach, 16 Whimbrels were seen flying by the point; as well there were good numbers of Ruddy Turnstones and 60 Sanderlings. At Shirleys Bay a Western Sandpiper, a very rare shorebird in this area, paid a short visit. To cap the day off at Shirleys Bay, the Bald Eagle was seen being chased by one of the Peregrines. The Peregrine was subsequently chased by a Merlin, all within a few minutes time span! It is days like this that prove a good point: if you want to see interesting birds, you have to get your feet wet!

The very next storm, on September 18, once again brought in some very interesting birds. Two Sabine's Gulls were observed, one at Britannia and the other at the Green Creek sewage ponds. These observations were within minutes of each other, confirming that there were, in fact, two birds, a very rare occurrence. On the same day, at Shirleys Bay, the fifth record for Ottawa of Forster's Tern occurred, and the second Connecticut Warbler was observed.

The Sandhill Crane first reported at Malakoff in the March to May *Recent Bird Sightings (Trail & Landscape* 16(4): 190-192 (1982)), remained until mid-October. This bird has to rank as one of the more bizarre birds of recent years in Ottawa in terms of aberrant behaviour. It seems this bird thought of itself more as a horse than a bird, being quite content to graze with its fellow horses all summer!

Each fall a number of rare birds make an annual appearance in Ottawa. This year the list included a Long-billed Dowitcher at Munster Hamlet sewage lagoons at October 6, a Golden Eagle at Constance Bay on October 17, and a Sharp-tailed Sparrow at Shirleys Bay on October 19.

Duckwise, the end of October was quite rich. High counts included 80 Gadwall at Britannia to Ottawa Beach on October 29, and 138 Shoveler at Shirleys Bay on October 25. These species are western ducks that are becoming increasingly common in the Ottawa area in recent years. On October 24, 550 male Black Scoters spent the day on Lac Deschênes. Male Black Scoters prefer to migrate along the coasts and are rarely seen inland; therefore, it is quite a treat to see these magnificent velvet-black birds with their bright orange, knobby bills in the Ottawa area.

Late records for the period included a Common Tern at Shirleys Bay on October 16, and a Yellow-billed Cuckoo at Almonte on October 22. The only Northern Mockingbird report for the period was on October 27 in the west end.

Originally, I was going to write this summary on Sunday, October 31st. It was a warm, sunny day, and I felt that nothing of any significance would be seen. I was going to say that this period was largely uneventful, but then the telephone rang ... "Gray Kingbird at Britannia!". GRAY KINGBIRD! This bird marked the culmination of one of the more fascinating of ornithological events, the simultaneous occurrence of southern flycatchers in this region at the end of October. Two Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were observed, one at Deep River and another near Chicoutimi, Quebec. In addition, an Ash-throated Flycatcher, a southwestern relative of our Great Crested, was observed near Toronto.

Gray Kingbird is a bird of the Florida Coast and the West Indies. Photographs of this bird make it only the second documented Canadian record, the first being an old specimen from, of all places, Vancouver Island, in 1889. There is a sight record from Kingston, Ontario, in 1972, and two others from the Maritimes. The Gray Kingbird spent the afternoon of October 31 feeding actively around the Britannia Filtration Plant, being watched actively by a large number of people, before disappearing that evening. This is one of the rarest birds, if not *the* rarest, ever to be seen in the Ottawa area, and further discussion will follow in a separate article in *Trail & Landscape* at a later date.

The Ottawa Banding Group

Joanne Dean

Last winter some of the Ottawa bird banders got together to form the Ottawa Banding Group. This new group was set up to carry out the following functions through the use of banding:

1. document the status and distribution of birds within the Ottawa area,
2. provide training in banding and related scientific disciplines,
3. coordinate and organize banders and projects within the Ottawa area,
4. further public interest and knowledge of birds,
5. promote liaison with other banding groups, and
6. operate a bird observatory within the Ottawa area.

Ottawa is an ideal situation for banding all year round. Many northern species and year-round residents can be captured at feeders during the winter; spring and fall migrants and plenty of summer residents can be caught during the rest of the year.

During the spring and fall of 1982 it was decided to place the emphasis of the banding operation on the Innis Point project. Its location on the north side of Shirleys Bay, 30 km west of Ottawa Centre on the south side of the Ottawa River and one of Ottawa's better birding spots, gave the site great potential. The nets were opened on most weekends in April and October and daily from May 1 through September 30, the latter made possible by the assistance given by the National Capital Commission and the Canada Youth Summer Employment Program.

All the birds caught at Innis Point were captured in 1 1/4" mist nets. The number of nets used and their locations varied throughout the season as more was learned about the movement of birds through the area and more competent manpower became available. Up to 36 nets were set; these were widely spaced in several vegetation types: abandoned pasture scrubland, deciduous wood edge, Ottawa River shoreline and beaver pond edge.

In total, 4,022 birds of 96 species were banded at Innis Point (Table 1 opposite). The number of birds caught during the spring migration was low, although the variety was good. The same situation seemed to be true for the Ottawa area in general. The low number of new birds caught in June was expected, as June is the height of the nesting season in this area and most species are either on nests or confined to the limits of their territory. When the young fledged from the nests, the numbers caught increased. The increase was larger than expected due to the flocks

Table 1. *The total of each species banded at Innis Point in the 1982 season*

Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	Tennessee Warbler	27
American Woodcock	4	Orange-crowned Warbler	2
Common Snipe	1	Nashville Warbler	98
Spotted Sandpiper	21	Northern Parula Warbler	3
Mourning Dove	3	Yellow Warbler	246
Black-billed Cuckoo	12	Magnolia Warbler	95
Whip-poor-will	2	Cape May Warbler	1
Belted Kingfisher	2	Black-throated Blue Warbler	7
Common Flicker	22	Yellow-rumped Warbler	173
Hairy Woodpecker	13	Black-throated Green Warbler	26
Downy Woodpecker	26	Blackburnian Warbler	8
Eastern Kingbird	17	Chestnut-sided Warbler	17
Great Crested Flycatcher	21	Bay-breasted Warbler	44
Eastern Phoebe	17	Blackpoll Warbler	19
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	6	Pine Warbler	3
Traill's Flycatcher	17	Palm Warbler	5
Least Flycatcher	130	Ovenbird	59
<i>Empidonax</i> species	2	Northern Waterthrush	23
Eastern Wood Pewee	15	Mourning Warbler	8
Tree Swallow	245	Common Yellowthroat	33
Bank Swallow	48	Wilson's Warbler	13
Barn Swallow	109	Canada Warbler	15
Cliff Swallow	1	American Redstart	29
Blue Jay	25	House Sparrow	1
Black-capped Chickadee	285	Bobolink	1
Boreal Chickadee	3	Eastern Meadowlark	1
White-breasted Nuthatch	11	Red-winged Blackbird	192
Red-breasted Nuthatch	5	Northern Oriole	117
Brown Creeper	30	Common Grackle	22
House Wren	2	Brown-headed Cowbird	12
Winter Wren	5	Scarlet Tanager	6
Gray Catbird	111	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	78
Brown Thrasher	17	Indigo Bunting	8
American Robin	107	Evening Grosbeak	1
Wood Thrush	9	Purple Finch	12
Hermit Thrush	5	American Goldfinch	38
Swainson's Thrush	20	Savannah Sparrow	18
Gray-cheeked Thrush	2	Vesper Sparrow	1
Veery	19	Dark-eyed Junco	78
Golden-crowned Kinglet	67	Tree Sparrow	5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	197	Chipping Sparrow	17
Water Pipit	2	Field Sparrow	11
Cedar Waxwing	167	White-crowned Sparrow	19
Starling	7	White-throated Sparrow	207
Solitary Vireo	31	Lincoln's Sparrow	6
Red-eyed Vireo	42	Swamp Sparrow	12
Philadelphia Vireo	5	Song Sparrow	236
Warbling Vireo	22		
Black and White Warbler	36	Total	4022

of Red-winged Blackbirds that were feeding on the shoreline, the swallows that were congregated around the solar observatory, and the large number of migrant Yellow Warblers passing through the net areas.

Throughout the fall migration the numbers and variety of birds caught were good, especially during the periods of unstable weather conditions. None of the birds caught in this season were unexpected, but some of the more unusual catches included two Orange-crowned Warblers, six Yellow-bellied Flycatchers, two Gray-cheeked Thrushes, three Northern Parula Warblers and three Boreal Chickadees, all caught during the migration periods. Apart from the Osprey, the only unusual breeding birds were a pair of Pine Warblers and a few Vesper Sparrows.

In terms of a banding operation it is really not the unusual species that arouse a lot of interest but the more commonly caught species. These are the species that will produce numbers that can be worked with statistically and are the most likely to yield interesting scientific information. The Black-capped Chickadee was caught the most frequently, and it should be studied further as the data gathered this year indicate that it could be a regular migrant in the Ottawa area. The Yellow Warbler and Song Sparrow both bred in the net area in relatively large numbers, and it is possible that further work on the breeding activities of these species could be conducted at Innis Point. It is suspected that another year of operation at Innis Point will yield some interesting return rates of those species that bred in the scrubland vegetation.

It had been hoped that some Saw-whet Owl banding would have been done this year, but unfortunately greater manpower would have been needed to band owls at night and the passerines in the morning.

The Ottawa Banding Group participated in the Ottawa River Black Duck Banding Project, 1982, coordinated by the Canadian Wildlife Service, Quebec Region. Ottawa was one of six stations set up along the Ottawa River between Calumet Island and Thurso. It was at the Ottawa station that the largest number of Black Ducks was banded, and it is suspected that the project will be run again next year. In total, 1492 Mallards, 689 Black Ducks, 112 Mallard x Black Duck hybrids, 294 Wood Ducks, 156 Blue-winged Teals, 12 Pintails and 4 Green-winged Teals were banded.

Last winter over 3,000 Common Redpolls were banded between Janette Dean and Richard Poulin, both members of the Ottawa Banding Group. Only three feeders were covered at this time, but from this work a start was made on a study of the movements of the redpolls in the Ottawa area. The feeder banding this winter will probably not yield the numbers of last winter as redpolls do not appear regularly in the Ottawa area, but a larger number of feeder stations should be covered. It is hoped that the

Ottawa Banding Group will also participate in a province-wide Snow Bunting banding project this winter.

Anyone who is interested in assisting in any or all of the banding projects and learning more about the activities of the Ottawa Banding Group is invited to come to the meeting on January 21 at the Baxter Conservation Centre. (See *Coming Events* for further details.)

Ottawa Regional Science Fair

Ken Taylor

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has for several years now presented special awards to deserving exhibitors in the life sciences category at the Ottawa Regional Science Fair. This fair consists of scientific projects, experiments and collections produced by Ottawa area students in grades 7 to 13.

In 1982 the twenty-first Ottawa Regional Science Fair was held at the National Museum of Science and Technology and ran for three days, April 2, 3 and 4. In past years the fair ran for only two days.

At the fair this year, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club first prize was awarded to Dawna Duff of Alta Vista School for her exhibit "Tree Rings and Precipitation". For her efforts, Dawna received a prize of \$50.

Second prize and \$40 went to Chris McArton of Hopewell Avenue School for his exhibit "Whales".

Matt Laird and Mike Kenney, also of Alta Vista School, shared third prize and \$30 for their exhibit "Acid Rain: Effects on the Environment".

Each of the Club award winners also received a one-year subscription to *Trail & Landscape*. It is interesting, and perhaps a little disconcerting, to note that all of our winners this year were junior exhibitors, that is, grade 7 or 8 students. In fact, there were only five intermediate exhibitors and six senior exhibitors in the life sciences category at the fair. We hope to see more life science exhibits by the older students next year.

The Ottawa Regional Science fair encourages students to "get involved" with sciences, and it is a project which is very worthy of your support. Besides, it's great fun! Why don't you plan to attend the twenty-second annual fair this spring?

Environment Canada's Position on Some Local Issues

Last summer Club member Brian Kelly wrote to John Roberts, Minister of Environment Canada, expressing his concerns regarding the route of proposed Highway 416 through the Stony Swamp Conservation Area and the question of raccoon dogs. This is the answer Brian received on September 27 from the Minister:

Thank you for your letter of August 14 asking about our position on the Stony Swamp area and raccoon dogs.

At the request of the National Capital Commission (NCC) which owns Stony Swamp, the Ontario Region of the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) conducted an evaluation of the wetlands of the Stony Swamp property. In applying their evaluation, my officials examined the biological, social, hydrological, agricultural and 'special feature' components. The latter deals with the presence of rare species and significant types of fish and wildlife habitat. In comparison to 20 other Ontario wetlands for which the CWS has completed evaluations to date, the Stony Swamp property scored first or second with regard to four out of five of its major components. Only the agricultural values scored low. The evaluation system used by my officials is still being developed but it is unlikely that the revisions will reduce the assessment of Stony Swamp.

The NCC is working closely with the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton and the Federal Environmental Assessment Review Office of my Department on the assessment of the impact of the proposed Highway 416. I am confident that, before any final decision is made, the environmental aspects will be carefully considered.

The problem of raccoon dogs has been resolved. We recently concluded an agreement with the owner of the fur farm at Madoc and the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food, which regulates fur farms in Ontario, whereby the owner of the fur farm has agreed to pelt the current breeding stock. This will put an end to the nucleus of commercial breeding stock in Canada. Further importations of raccoon dogs are now regulated by an amendment to the Import Control List of the Export and Import Permits Act.

(signed) John Roberts

The next issue of *Trail & Landscape* will contain Roger Taylor's account of conservationists' efforts to rid Canada of the potentially dangerous raccoon dogs.

It Works Both Ways!

Recently I received the following note from the Director's Office of the National Museum of Natural Sciences. As you read this note, remember that the essential task of typing every issue of *Trail & Landscape* takes place using the facilities of the National Museum of Natural Sciences, kindly placed at our disposal by the Director or Acting Director. JMR

Dear Joyce:

I was looking through Volume 16, no. 5 of *Trail & Landscape* and I suddenly thought - for no particular reason - this is an absolutely super little magazine/journal. Having thought that, I felt that you should know what effect it had on me. I can't single out one particular thing in that issue which caused that reaction, it's just the overall impression that the issue gave.

Keep up the good work.

(signed) C.G. (Chuck) Gruchy
Acting Director.

Organizer Required for Breeding Bird Censuses

Summer jobs for experienced birders!

The National Capital Commission's Conservation Section (Greenbelt Division) is planning to do breeding bird censuses in Stony Swamp and Mer Bleue Conservation Areas this year. This work will be carried out under contract to an individual who will organize the project and hire staff.

The organizer will be required to prepare a plan for staff, operations and budget, submit a proposal, and be responsible for all aspects of the work.

If you are interested in being either a contractor or a member of a group, contact Stew Hamill, Chief, Conservation, Greenbelt Division, at 992-4828, or in writing at the National Capital Commission, 161 Laurier Avenue West, Ottawa K1P 6J6.

Indicate your interest as soon as possible. Experience in identifying birds is a prerequisite.

Science Focus — Focus on Wetlands

On the evening of October 22, 1982, a small but enthusiastic audience assembled at Carleton University to hear a trio of panelists bring into focus the problems of wetlands. The evening was sponsored by Science Focus, a group of science-oriented citizens who are working toward a better understanding of science by members of the public. To do this, they promote October as Science Month in the Ottawa area, and almost every night during the month talks were given on a wide variety of scientific subjects related to this year's theme, *How Society Benefits from the Life Sciences*. The wetlands evening was one of these events.

The three panelists were Dr. Ted Mosquin and Mr. Garry McCullough, both of the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Dr. Joyce Reddoch, a research associate at the National Museum Herbarium and Editor of *Trail & Landscape*. Moderator of the discussions was Dr. Isabel Bayly of the Department of Biology at Carleton University.

Dr. Mosquin, the first speaker, spoke of the need for quantitative assessment of existing wetlands, and outlined a system being developed by the Canadian Wildlife Service. If this system is implemented, all wetlands may be ranked numerically in order of their importance. Some of the "yardsticks" in the classification include hydrological importance, such as flood prevention, water cleaning and silt holding properties, as well as diversity and importance as wildlife habitat.

Mr. McCullough helped his audience to understand how many wetlands are being lost (one estimate places the loss in southern Ontario at 81% lost principally through drainage), and pointed out that we must now value even more those remaining wetlands.

The last speaker, Dr. Joyce Reddoch, brought the problems and pressures placed on local wetlands into sharp focus, explaining very clearly how many of the problems involve pressure of developers - private, municipal and provincial. She closed her part of the discussion with a brief revue of the politics of environmental conservation, gently emphasizing just who was for and who was against the preservation of local wetlands.

The discussion following the three talks indicated clearly that the points had been well made by the speakers, since what was assumed would be a one-hour event with about ten minutes of audience participation continued for well over two hours and encompassed many wetland-oriented subjects, such as the need for government cash incentives to encourage owners to retain wetlands as viable systems. It was agreed by those present that wetlands important to wildlife and water quality should receive active protection from all levels of government.

Isabel Bayly

Tiger Beetles of the Ottawa Valley



by
Henri Goulet

*Biosystematics Research Institute, Agriculture Canada,
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0C6*

Introduction

Among the many sights of spring, that of *Cicindela sexguttata* is very special to me. This elusive and brilliant metallic-green insect is easily spotted along trails or dirt roads. Tiger beetles are handsome and fascinating, and they are just as elegant in the temperate zone as in the tropics.

Adults are easily recognized by their body outline (large eyes, narrow pronotum and wide elytra) and by their smooth elytra (Figure 1). Thirteen species are known from the Ottawa Valley; all but one, *C. formosa generosa*, are recorded from the Ottawa District. Our species belong to the genus *Cicindela*, the taxonomy of which was defined by J.B. Wallis (1961). The northern ranges of our species were outlined by Wallis (1961) and by A. Larochelle (1972).

This work is to help naturalists in recognizing adults at the species level, in locating the specific habitats of each species, and in providing basic information for those readers more deeply interested in these beetles.

Key to Adults of *Cicindela* of the Ottawa Valley

In this key I used simple language, although a few terms need defining. In the dorsal view, the body of adults appears divided in three parts: head, pronotum and elytra (modified anterior wings). On the head, between sharp mandibles, there is a white labrum. On the elytra, there are some white markings. These markings are mainly along the lateral portion of the elytron, and are divided into three groups: anterior, central and posterior.

- | | | |
|---|---|-------------|
| 1 | Dorsal surface reddish brown, metallic red, green
or blue | 2 |
| | Dorsal surface white, brown, dark gray or black | 7 |
| 2 | Dorsal surface of elytron, excluding white markings,
bicolour: brilliant green laterally and dull red
(rarely green) over inner portion* | 3 |
| | Dorsal surface of elytron, excluding white markings,
concolour | 4 |
| 3 | Anterior marking present and divided into two spots;
central marking markedly sinuate (Figure 1) . <i>C. limbalis</i>
Anterior marking absent; central marking slightly
sinuate (Figure 2) | C. purpurea |
| 4 | Dorsal surface metallic green or blue; markings
markedly narrow and isolated (Figures 3, 4) | 5 |
| | Dorsal surface metallic red (rarely green) or
reddish brown; markings wide and mostly fused
(Figures 5, 6) | 6 |

- 5 Central marking extended inward and large (Figure 3)
..... *C. patruela*
Central marking restricted laterally with or with-
out small spot inward (Figure 4) *C. sexguttata*

- 6 Central marking shield-like; dorsal surface metallic
red (rarely green) (Figure 5) ... *C. scutellaris lecontei*
Central marking markedly sinuate; dorsal surface
dull reddish brown with metallic hue (Figure 6)
..... *C. formosa generosa*

- 7 Elytron and legs mostly white; hairs on head and
pronotum wide and dense (Figure 7) *C. lepida*
Elytron and legs mostly brown or darker coloured;
hairs of head and pronotum absent, or narrow
and less dense (Figures 8, 9, 11, 12) 8

- 8 Lower portion of anterior marking rounded (Figure
12), or anterior marking reduced to two spots
(Figures 10, 11, 13) 10
Lower portion of anterior marking straight
(Figures 8, 9) 9

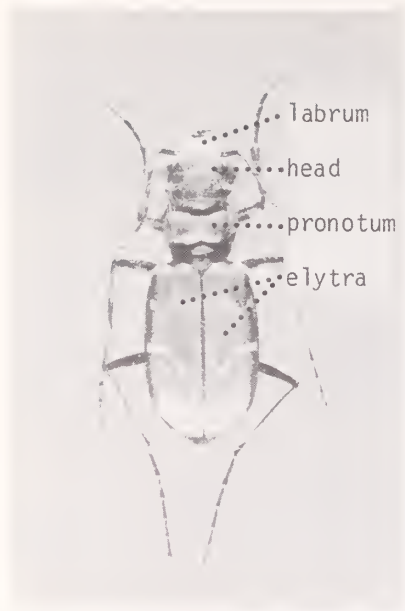
- 9 Lower portion of anterior marking extended inward
at right angle with lateral margin (Figure 8)
..... *C. hirticollis*
Lower portion of anterior marking extended inward
at a marked close angle with lateral margin
(Figure 9) *C. tranquebarica*

- 10 Elytron with longitudinal row of metallic green
spots along inner fourth*; posterior marking
narrow (Figure 10) *C. punctulata*
Elytron without longitudinal row of metallic
spots; posterior marking reduced to two spots,
or, when completely present, wide (Figures 12,
13) 11

- 11 Labrum long: about 1.5 times wider than long;
head almost without hairs (Figure 11) *C. longilabris*
Labrum short: at least twice as wide as long;
hairs numerous on dorsal portion of head
(Figures 12, 13) 12

- 12 Markings complete; dorsal surface brown and more
convex (Figure 12) *C. repanda*
Markings, in most specimens, reduced and sub-
divided; dorsal surface dark gray to almost
black and less convex (Figure 13) *C. duodecimguttata*

* feature of a character that cannot be seen in the photographs



These photographs, all shown at the same scale, were taken by Charlie Beddoe. The tiger beetles range in size from 10 to 14 mm.

Figure 1. *C. limbalis* Klug



Figure 2. *C. purpurea* Olivier

Figure 3. *C. patruela* Dejean



Figure 4. *C. sexguttata*
Fabricius



Figure 5. *C. scutellaris*
lecontei Haldeman



Figure 6. *C. formosa generosa*
Dejean



Figure 7. *C. lepida* Dejean



Figure 8. *C. hirticollis* Say



Figure 9. *C. tranquebarica* Herbst



Figure 10. *C. punctulata*
Olivier



Figure 11. *C. longilabris* Say



Figure 12. *C. repanda* Dejean



Figure 13. *C. duodecimguttata*
Dejean

Habitats

C. limbalis. Adults are rather uncommon in our region. They run on dry clayish surfaces that are sparsely vegetated. Adults are most common during early summer. Larochelle (1972) reports them from open areas in fields, roads, ditches, roadside blowouts and sand pits.

C. purpurea. Few adults of this species have been captured. Larochelle (1972) reports them from open, often clayish, and sparsely vegetated surfaces. Adults are found mainly in early summer along meadow pathways and dirt roads.

C. patruela. This rare species in Canada is known from the Ottawa Valley. Lawton (1970) found adults among grasses where Jack Pine, Red Oak and blueberries grew. In early summer, adults are easily collected after flushing them out from the grasses onto roads.

C. sexguttata. Adults are commonly seen in early summer along shaded trails and roads, or on stone in rich meadows in proximity to woodlands. During cold and rainy weather, adults are easily found under bark or among loosely piled rocks.

C. scutellaris lecontei. In early summer adults of this elegant species are rather common on small open surfaces with fine sand and sparse vegetation. Adults are easily found on the way into the Mer Bleue Bog.

C. formosa generosa. Although it is not recorded from our District, I have adults from various locations along the Valley. Adults of this large species are found generally in association with *C. scutellaris lecontei* mainly in early summer.

C. lepida. Naturalists are likely to miss adults of this species as they are cryptically coloured and motionless. In late summer adults are seen on fine white sand which is almost devoid of vegetation (Larochelle 1974).

C. hirticollis. In early summer adults are very abundant on the moist sand of large sandy beaches beside large bodies of water such as the Ottawa River.

C. tranquebarica. In early summer adults are seen commonly on sandy and finely gravelled areas which are generally without vegetation. They are seen on large sand dunes (Larochelle 1972), paths and roadside blowouts, and in sand pits and gravel pits.

C. punctulata. In late summer adults are seen commonly in sparsely vegetated sandy areas. This species is found generally in the same habitat as that of *C. scutellaris lecontei*, but in late summer.

C. longilabris. Adults run on dry open surfaces of sand, clay, peat or rocks where spruce and Jack Pine grow. Adults are seen mainly in early summer along paths and roads (Lindroth 1955, Larochelle 1972).

C. repanda. In early summer adults are seen commonly on open dry or moist sandy surfaces which are generally without vegetation. Adults prefer sand bars along creeks and small rivers, although they are also in sand pits.

C. duodecimguttata. In early summer adults occur on moist clay, silt or sand which is generally without vegetation and near water.

Conclusion

Knowing the name is the beginning of great adventures extending from pleasures of recording the presence of various species to elaborate behavioural analyses. In my opinion this group of beetles is exceptionally suited for behavioural observations. I hope this short note will guide some readers into discovering this fascinating group of beetles.

Literature Cited

- Larochelle, A. 1972. *The Cicindelidae of Quebec*. *Cicindela* 4(3): 49-63.
- Larochelle, A. 1974. *Notes on Cicindela lepida Dejean*. *Cicindela* 6(3): 66-68.
- Lawton, J.K. 1970. *A new color variant of Cicindela patruela*. *Cicindela* 2(2): 1-3.
- Lindroth, C.H. 1955. *The carabid beetles of Newfoundland*. *Opuscula Entomologica, Supplementum* 12. 160 pp.
- Wallis, J.B. 1961. *The Cicindelidae of Canada*. University of Toronto Press. 74 pp.

Recommended Reading

General Interest

- Balduf, W.V. 1935. *The bionomics of entomophagous Coleptera*. John S. Swift Co., Inc. 220 pp. (This is a brief and excellent summary about the biology of tiger beetles.)

The journal *Cicindela* has a wealth of informative papers on tiger beetles of the world.

Taxonomy of Larvae

- Hamilton, C.C. 1925. *Studies on the morphology, taxonomy, and ecology of the larvae of Holarctic tiger beetles (Family Cicindelidae)*. United States National Museum Proceedings 65(17): 1-87. (Eleven of our species are characterized in this work.)
- Willis, H.L. 1980. *Description of the larva of Cicindela patruela*. *Cicindela* 12(4): 49-56. (Willis integrates this species in Hamilton's key.)

Rearing Tiger Beetles

- Palmer, M.K. 1979. *Rearing tiger beetles in the laboratory*. *Cicindela* 11(1): 1-11.

Catching Tiger Beetles

- Larochelle, A. 1978. *Techniques for catching tiger beetles*. *Cicindela* 10(2): 23-26.

Winter Wildflowers in Ottawa:

Diadems from an Open Air Hat Shop

Ross Anderson

In the depth of winter, where most non-migratory *Trail & Landscape* readers will be joined by now, we walk or ski and sometimes skate in the windswept fields around Copeland Park in west end Ottawa. Often we return with a harvest of wildflowers to decorate the house.

The wildflowers we collect are the common product of unkempt hedgerows and unmown meadows. Places where, thanks to Ottawa naturalists, the mower is banned and where grasses and shrubs are left to grapple with the wind and drift with the snow.

In August and September we adorn the altar of St. Michael and All Angels Church with crocks and buckets of goldenrod and Purple Loosestrife. The same flowers in November and December are like delicate filigrees of pewter and copper.

Other flowers, hardly noticed in the summer, sparkle like costume jewellery in the sharp, contrasting light of February and March. Bulrushes and milkweed stand out long after frost has covered the ground, and Gromwell appears like a diadem from an open air hat shop.

To me these winter wildflowers are as welcome as the first pair of cardinals or a wintering robin. Each year we pick them and keep them by the hearth until they gather dust and the seeds are all blown. With luck they last until the first Wood Strawberry flowers in the spring and the honeysuckle planted by the birds has begun to blossom.

I hope these sketches will allow you to share in the harvest. To help identify your own collection I recommend a book which we discovered not long ago:

Weeds in Winter, written and illustrated by Lauren Brown, Houghton Mifflin, Boston, 1979. This book is available as a pocket-sized paperback, illustrated with delicate sketches and delightful lettering which has almost gone out of style, at a very reasonable price.

As a back-up you should also consider:

Canadian Wildflowers, by Mary Ferguson and Richard Saunders, Van Nostrand Reinhold, Toronto, 1976. This is a book for reading in winter, full of the marvellous colour of wildflowers at the height of the season, a nice contrast with the ochres and silvers of the present off-season drab.



Gromwell, *Lithospermum officinale*

Gromwell seems to be designed for winter! In summer it appears as a bushy plant growing gradually taller and almost entirely green. In winter the fragile stems are adorned with shiny white seed pods like a hat-maker's pin with a porcelain head.



Bull Thistle, Cirsium vulgare.

A rose by another name is the beautiful Bull Thistle. Marvellously equipped to defend itself this wild flower defies almost any effort to pick it by hand; once picked to even carry a thistle requires a pair of gloves. We find the thistle a good conversation piece displayed in a single flower-vase. In winter the luminous purple flower turns to thistle-down on a spiky silver gray stem.



CRA March 3, 1978

Brown Knapweed
Centaurea jacea

Knapweed grows plentifully in the fields around Copeland Park. The delicate purple flower is much brighter in September than the name suggests; in winter the bracts remaining on the stem are brown. It is considered a pest in cultivated fields which may explain why this wildflower has never acquired a more romantic name.

Common Mullein
Verbascum thapsus



The stiff, unbending mullein is difficult to use as a decorative flower. In summer it blossoms in a halo of small yellow blooms which progress up the stalk like a stick of incense burning. In winter the mullein stalk stands above the snow like a sentinel. It will still be there to greet the black birds returning in the spring.



New England Aster, *Aster novae-angliae*

The wild aster retains a delicate haze of colour until the first frost and sometimes longer. Then the sprays of flowers turn to ochre and russet, rustling in the wind, sending feathery seeds adrift across the snow to start the story of the seasons once again. The aster is among the last wild-flowers showing colour before the onset of winter.



Common Milkweed, Asclepius syriaca

Through summer and fall we watch the milkweed bloom and ripen in the fields around Copeland Park.

Now it is winter with 20 or 30 centimetres of snow on the ground. The milkweed will be among the last of the wildflowers to show above the surface, still rattling in the wind, shaking out seeds on silken parachutes to be planted in the mud when the snow is gone.

Wolverines in Gatineau Park?

Bill Gummer

In February 1977 I toured the northern end of Gatineau Park with a group of friends with whom I had skied a number of times in the mountains north of Lake Louise, Alberta (northeast of Whitehorn Mountain, the famous skiing resort). At one place on the northeast edge of the hill between Kingsbury Lake and Rivière La Pêche in Gatineau Park, we came across tracks in the snow that we at once accepted as wolverine. This acceptance was based on experience near Lake Louise, where we had become familiar with fresh wolverine signs almost daily.



The tracks of a loping wolverine are distinctive, with a pattern of three prints (really two in the centre one) as shown in the photograph. That surrounding scenery, of course, is not in the Gatineau Hills; it is near Shoki Mountain in the Rockies.

A wolverine was seen near Luskville in early 1972 (*The Canadian Field-Naturalist* 86(4): 390 (1972)), and occasionally one hears the question raised anew about the animal's presence in the Ottawa area. If anyone sees prints like those in the photograph, keep the animal in mind! Take a picture if you can, and pass the information along to the National Museum of Natural Sciences and/or the Canadian Wildlife Service.

The Excursions and Lectures Committee

Charlie Beddoe*

Both excursions and lectures have been an important part of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club's activities since its beginning more than a hundred years ago. In the early days, two separate planning committees functioned. The Excursions Committee was organized to conduct Club members on study sessions in the field. A report on the Excursions Committee in 1908 states quaintly but accurately, "the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club is a sort of tramp association. Its home is essentially in the field, in the woods, along the streams, or among the hills".

From the beginning, excursions were popular. For example, the Excursions Committee of 1887 arranged five outings to the Kingsmere and Aylmer areas, and local subexcursions most Saturday afternoons from spring to fall. (For an excellent account of earlier days, see *Favourite OFNC Excursion Places* By Joyce Reddoch in *Trail & Landscape* 13(3): 71-96 (1979).)

The planning group known as the Soiree Committee arranged evening socials and lectures. Around 1907, reference was made to a Lecture Program, and in 1911 the designation of Soiree was changed to Lecture Committee.

Through the following years, into World War I and the twenties, both committees were active. The early thirties saw lecture programs disappear (due to the impact of the depression?), but excursions did continue. Attendance on four outings in May 1932 averaged more than a hundred persons. By 1936, a revival of the lecture program began and reached a climax when, on January 31, 1938, under the patronage of the Governor General, about 1,200 people attended a lecture given by Dr. Arthur Allen of Cornell University.

In 1938, the Club bulletin stated that "the Lecture Committee co-operated with the Excursions Committee". Finally, in 1943, the name Excursions and Lectures Committee first appeared and has continued to this day.

The Excursions and Lectures Committee, as a standing committee of the Council, must be chaired by a member of the Council. It meets, usually at a member's house, in time to complete all planning activities for *Trail & Landscape* publication deadlines - five times a year.

* historical information provided by Frank Bell and Peter Hall

In planning excursions, many factors must be considered: trip destinations and best times are discussed and decided; leaders and transportation are decided and any costs are evaluated; departure time and place are set; and any attendance restrictions are decided. The trip may also require arranging permission to enter particular areas. One committee member usually attends to bus transportation arrangements. Another member is assigned to look after birding trips. Individual Club members sometimes may volunteer to work on the details of planning more ambitious trips and their assistance is always welcome.

In lecture planning for monthly meetings, arrangements for facilities at the National Museum of Natural Sciences must be organized months ahead. (The Club has superb cooperation and help from officers and staff of the Museum.) Potential speakers must be approached. Topic outlines and speaker biographical backgrounds must be obtained for *Trail & Landscape* and for introductions. The final task is to ensure that projection and other facilities are made available for the speaker.

A third major function of the Excursions and Lectures Committee has been planning the Annual Dinner, or, in the last two years, the Members' Soirée. The dinners, with special speakers and a more formal atmosphere, appealed to many, but the soirée appears at present to have greater appeal because of lower costs and increased contact among members.

The work of the Excursions and Lectures Committee has been the backbone for the formal activities of the Club. Many non-committee Club members, especially the Refreshments Subcommittee co-ordinated by Eileen Evans, deserve a special vote of thanks.

In recent years, the Excursions and Lectures Committee has been faced with often-complex arrangements in an attempt to achieve bigger and better things. A peak in activities was probably achieved in the Club's Centennial Year (1979). However, bigger did not always mean better. Popular, heavily-attended field trips became unwieldy and created problems for leaders, dissatisfaction to some members, and excessive trampling of fragile areas. The more recent formation of activity groups operating independently of the committee has taken some pressure off the committee to be all things to all people. These groups also provide resource assistance when requested.

Meetings of the Excursions and Lectures Committee are held about every two months and are informal and fun. (Committee members sometimes get an advance taste of the wine and cheese for the soirée or the annual picnic.) New blood is always welcome. If you are interested in joining us, call the Club number, (722-3050) after 10 a.m.

OFNC Annual Picnic

Frank Bell

The day before the OFNC Annual Picnic on Saturday, September 18th, was so beautiful that we all had pleasant dreams of getting out into nature the next day. However, the steady rain which began overnight dulled some of the spirits, so that, in spite of "no reservations accepted" for many days previous, there were several vacant seats in the Museum's Dinobus. But the faithful were rewarded with clearing skies long before we reached our destination, after a coffee break in Lanark, over two hours later. Three people went direct by car to our destination to make a total of about 33 for the picnic.

The Palmerston-Canonto Lakes Conservation Area, which is operated jointly by the Province of Ontario and the Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, was suggested for the picnic site by Betty Marwood and Jo Carson. They had seen the attractive countryside and well-kept trails of this park in northern Frontenac County in Canadian Shield country. Some were surprised how "Kingston's" county, Frontenac, gets so far north, but a map points out how long and narrow it is (as are the two counties



After arriving at Palmerston Lake in the Dinobus, participants checked out the scenery.

photos by Peter Hall

to the west).

No formal leaders were designated for the outing, but some of those attending were called on to lead groups as soon as we arrived: George McGee and Bill Holland to look mainly at birds, Bob Bracken to look at plants as well as birds, and the writer to emphasize plants also. One trail led from the parking lot on Palmerston Lake to nearby Canonto Lake and then on to a rocky knoll over 300 metres in elevation with a nice view in all directions. There were not many herbaceous plants along the trail except for the pretty little Blue-stemmed Goldenrod. On the return trail, many more flowers were discovered right in the low ground beside the picnic tables and the lake.

No lists of species seen were kept, except for birds. Although they seemed few and far between, nearly 30 species were located during the course of the day, highlights being a Sharp-shinned Hawk, an Osprey and about five Turkey Vultures. Both before and after lunch there were the usual picnic table spreads of flowers and mushrooms to discuss and try to identify, in the absence of any real "professionals" in these fields.

In addition to the above-named walk leaders, the participants would like to thank Eileen Evans and Rick Leavens for supplying the fine cheese and apples, and Rick for coordinating the affair.



Bob Bracken points out some of the unusual local flora during a morning hike.

Thanksgiving Whale Trip

Jo Carson

"Blow at nine o'clock; kittiwakes at two." "There...there ... a Parasitic Jaeger."

The identifying calls set a group of Ottawa Field Naturalists reeling from one side of the ferry to the other. Despite the pitching ship, the naturalists stayed glued to their binoculars to record the sights along the St. Lawrence River.

The Thanksgiving weekend excursion was organized for a whale-watching tour escorted by la Société linnéenne de Québec (Aquarium de Québec).

Ottawa naturalists left aboard a Travelways bus for Rivière-du-Loup, Quebec, early Friday morning for an overnight stop. It rained all the way. Would they see the promised whales?

Saturday: hint of fog but no rain. An early morning call and off for Trois-Pistoles to board the ferry at seven a.m. A bone-chilling wind whipped across the decks. Out came down parkas, woollies and wind cheaters, including pants. Gloves were a boon to keep fingers from going numb while sweeping the rolling sea with binoculars.

Even before the ferry pulled out of the dock, Roger Taylor and Dan Brunton were piping out sightings: "two Common Loons, 30 Red-throated Loons, 200 Black Ducks, one Canada Goose, 75 Common Scoters, 350 Surf Scoters, 80 White-winged Scoters".

The bird sightings kept everyone in a state of excitement all the way to the north shore of the St. Lawrence. Along the way were noted: 300 Common Eiders, 50 Black Guillemots, eight Razor-billed Auks, 10 Common Murres, two Pomarine Jaegers, six Parasitic Jaegers.

Along the north shore the ferry cruised from Les Escoumins to Tadoussac where the Saguenay meets the St. Lawrence. Bitterly cold, but the skies were bright and visibility was excellent.

Everyone aboard had been briefed on the ship's loudspeaker that areas of identification would be based on a clockwise pattern with noon marking the front of the ferry.

Suddenly, a call ... "blow at five o'clock". Whale-watching was underway. Rough count of the day: eight Fin Whales, 30 Minke, one probable Blue. Added were four Harbour Seals and two Harbour Porpoises, also known as puffin pigs and herring hogs.

The Quebec society's claim in its brochure was no exaggeration: "For those who have passion for sceneries, the mouth of the Saguenay river and the shore of the St. Lawrence river will provide you unforgettable sensations".

To this could be added: an epidemic of red noses, and the accolade of a stranger aboard the pitching ferry and many pitched stomachs. "Never mind", she consoled her companion as the ferry docked, "even two naturalists were sick".

There was a bonus to the whale watching excursion. On Sunday, aboard another ferry from Rivière-du-Loup to Saint-Siméon and Cap-Tourmente, the White Balugas were sighted.

At Cap-Tourmente, brilliant sunshine highlighted the snow-effect of the official count of 100,000 Greater Snow Geese on the marshes of the 2,000-hectare national wildlife area.

Among the geese were Mallards, Common Pintails, Green-winged Teals and American Widgeon, while overhead were sighted Red-tailed Hawks, Broad-winged Hawks and a Cooper's Hawk.

The Ottawa group arrived home in time for Thanksgiving dinner on Monday. Did they enjoy the trip? There was a unanimous opinion voiced in a question: "When is the next trip?"



Greater Snow Geese at Cap-Tourmente National Wildlife Area.
from a photo by Jo Carson

Spring Excursion to Point Pelee

Your Club and Travelways are planning a bus tour from Ottawa to Point Pelee at the height of spring migration, should accommodation be available and sufficient members be interested. The bus would depart on Friday, May 13, and return on Monday, May 16.

Please indicate your interest by phoning the Club number 722-3050 (after 10 a.m.) giving your name and the number in your party.

Full details including costs, itinerary and so forth will be published in the next issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

Attractive Shrubs for Club Members

In late 1981 Jim Wickware of Dunrobin offered to provide established bushes of Highbush-cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*) for interested Club members. There was a two fold purpose: to provide natural food for birds, and to add the proceeds of sale to the bird seed fund. Unfortunately there was some confusion about availability of the bushes - 1981 or 1982 - and it turned out that they were available in 1982. For one reason or another we were not able to contact everyone who asked for the bushes; they were dug very late and had to be picked up without delay.

To those members who missed out, and to others interested, we can now announce that Jim has made a repeat offer for the spring of 1983. The "shrub of 1983" will be the Red-panicle Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*), about which *Ornamental Shrubs for Canada* says the following:

"A vigorous native shrub, suitable for screening or for use as a large ground cover. Withstands severe pruning so can readily be pruned to keep within bounds. Has gray bark and red-stemmed white fruits. It grows two to three metres high.

This year members will be asked to pick up their own bushes in Dunrobin, probably in the last week in April. NOTE THIS DATE. If you are interested, please tell Bill Gummer (596-1148) so that the number of bushes can be estimated and we know whom to call if there is any change in date.

The Club will again put a nominal price on the bushes. The 1982 arrangements raised nearly \$100 for the bird seed fund.

Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee
Paul Catling (996-1665), Chairman

Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader.

Tuesday 11 January 8:00 p.m.	ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets The meeting will be followed by <i>World in a Marsh</i> , a 20-minute National Film Board presentation which has won eight international awards. Then there will be refreshments and an opportunity to meet other members and the various committee chairmen.
------------------------------------	--

Sunday 16 January 8:00 a.m.	WINTER BIRDING IN THE OTTAWA AREA Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267) Meet: Loblaws, Carlingwood Shopping Centre, Carling Avenue at Woodroffe Avenue. This half-day outing will include visiting Club feeders, as well as checking along the Ottawa River for overwintering ducks. Dress warmly and bring binoculars or scope, and a snack. Bruce is a noted Ottawa birder and has contributed many ornithological articles to <i>Trail & Landscape</i> .
-----------------------------------	--

Wednesday 19 January 7:30 p.m.	VISIT TO THE ORNITHOLOGY SECTION OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCES Leader: Henri Ouellet Take advantage of this evening open house to observe behind-the-scenes activities of the Ornithology Section, including both research and the preparation and maintenance of the national bird collection. This collection features bird skins, skeletons, specimens in fluid, nests and eggs, as well as range maps. Only a limited number of members can be accepted for this outing. To make a reservation and to obtain further details, telephone the Club number, 722-3050 (after 10 a.m.). Henri Ouellet is Chief of the Vertebrate Zoology Division and Curator of the Ornithology Section of the National Museum of Natural Sciences.
--------------------------------------	---

Friday
21 January
7:30 p.m.

OTTAWA BANDING GROUP MEETING
Speakers: Ottawa Banding Group committee members
Meet: Baxter Conservation Centre
This will be a workshop and slide show on bird banding with special emphasis on the activities of the Ottawa Banding Group. Anyone interested in learning more about bird banding or in joining in the banding program should come along. For further details, call Steve Wendt (489-2196) and see pages 8-11.

January 29-
30 weekend

ALGONQUIN PARK WEEKEND
Leader: Dan Brunton
Estimated Cost: \$165
This weekend of snowshoeing, birdwatching, and following moose and other mammal tracks will be limited to 15 persons, so register now by telephoning the Club number, 722-3050 (after 10 a.m.). Winter is a particularly good time to study the resident wildlife of the park because of the lack of obscuring foliage and the abundance of readily visible animal tracks in the snow. An introductory program will be provided by the park staff. Snowshoes, binoculars and suitable (layered) winter clothing are essential. Transportation will be by hired van, and the accomodation in Whitney includes morning and evening meals.

Saturday
29 January
8:00 p.m.

FERN IDENTIFICATION WORKSHOP
Leader: Bill Arthurs (225-6941)
Meet: Activity Centre, Room #1, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets
This workshop will be a basic fern identification session with emphasis on our local species. Actual fern fronds and plants will be used as teaching aids. Here is a chance to prepare for the upcoming field trips in '83. Bill Arthurs has pursued his interest in ferns and orchids for many years as a hobby.

Tuesday 8 February 8:00 p.m.	OFNC MONTHLY MEETING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION CONCERNS IN THE OTTAWA AREA Speaker: Harry McLeod Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets Harry has worked with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources as a biologist at the Upper Canada Migratory Bird Sanctuary east of Morrisburg and as the Eastern Ontario District Biologist, and is now the District Biologist for Carleton Place
------------------------------------	---



3 5185 00267 6839

District. He will discuss general principles of wildlife management, as well as specific problems and opportunities using examples from his own experience with deer, beaver and waterfowl. The talk will be illustrated with slides.

Saturday CROSS COUNTRY SKI OUTING IN THE ALFRED BOG
 12 February Leader: Don Cuddy
 Since the number of participants will be limited to 12, register early by telephoning the Club number, 722-3050 (after 10 a.m.). Please do not register unless you are capable of eight km of off-trail cross country skiing. Dress warmly; bring binoculars and a lunch. Don Cuddy is an expert on the natural history of eastern Ontario.

Saturday WINTER BIRD BUS TRIP, A JOINT OUTING WITH THE
 19 February KINGSTON FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB
 10:00 a.m. Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)
 Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences,
 Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, front entrance
 Cost: none
 This full-day outing in the Ottawa area will include a visit to at least one of the Club feeders. Dress warmly; bring binoculars and a lunch. The Museum will provide the Dinobus free of charge for transportation.

All Members Please Note:

1983 membership fees are now due. Please renew promptly; late renewals entail extra work and add to your Club's expenses.

Members who have not renewed their memberships by February 1st will not receive any more issues of *Trail & Landscape*. Missed issues will be available to those who renew late at a cost of \$1.00.

DEADLINE: Material intended for the March-April issue must be in the Editor's hands before January 8.

ISSN 0041-0748

T R A I L & L A N D S C A P E

published by

THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB

Second Class Mail - Registration Number 2777

Postage paid in cash at Ottawa

Change of Address Notices and undeliverable Copies:

Box 3264 Postal Station C, Ottawa, Ont.

K1Y 4J5

Return postage guaranteed